

Message

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Sent: 3/22/2019 4:33:35 PM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne [Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Monroe school update--notes from call

DOH talking points below

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Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:01 PM
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Subject: Monroe school update--notes from call

New since our last meeting:

- SHD sent school a letter; school would have received it Monday. They acknowledged it but there has been no other response.
- KIRO contacted ECY on this issue; ECY released letter from lawyers
- Letter from lawyer provides no new information that substantially changes our assessment of the situation

Summary:

- The information in this letter is not evidence that kids are at immediate risk. The sampling results provided are unusual and not congruent with other more standard sampling that has occurred at the school. We have several serious concerns about the limitations of the sampling described in the letter. However, we are interested in further investigation, including discussion the results with the PCB abatement contractor who worked with the school previously, reviewing other sampling results, and potentially recommending additional sampling.

Considerations:

- The dust tested seems to come from units that handle a lot of air. Dioxins are ubiquitous and in the air. Some ambient dioxins come from wood smoke, like from forest fires. It is possible that the dust has accumulated in these units over many years, and the chemicals in the dust are accumulation of dioxins from the outdoor air. In this case, the results would not be representative of current dust in the building in areas children have access to. We need more information about the amount of air moving through the units and the maintenance of these units as we consider this possibility.
- The LHJ suggested that we remember that it is likely that these samples are not designed to inform public health action, but designed to be used in a court case.

Next Steps:

- EPA will provide the PCB sampling data they have from this school
- SHD will call school and schedule a walk through so they can see and take photos of the sampling sites and understand the maintenance schedule for these sites.

- Liz Coleman (DOH) will touch base with Dave Bennett (ECY) and Michelle (EPA) to coordinate talking points for the media.
- Barb will begin drafting DOH response to letter as we expect it to arrive through our exec correspondence process shortly. The response will include an of outline limitations of sampling results reported to us, and a description of how we are responding.
- We will reconvene in the middle of next week, prepared to share draft agency responses to letter.

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